Lesson plan(s) for Marzi: A memoir by Marzena Sowa

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This lesson plan is written for the middle to high school level, but can be adapted for younger students.

Objective: Students will identify and expand on three things that have contributed to the person they are today.

Materials: 5-6 copies of the memoir Marzi, classroom set of “There was a child went for Forth,” by Walt Whitman and the “Who I am?” worksheet (these are attached).

Procedure: Break students into groups of 2-3 and give each group the worksheets, copies of the excerpt of the poem and a copy of the book, Marzi.

Begin by reading aloud the excerpt of the poem by Walt Whitman. Then have the students brainstorm about how life events have affected them. Have each group share and discuss the graphic novel Marzi and complete the worksheets as they reflect on their own lives.

Each student will then complete a rough draft of their 5 paragraph essay entitled, “Who am I?” and use at least three of the items they have completed on the worksheet.  
   
If time allows they can peer edit one another’s essay and begin a final draft.

Assessment: Student’s will write a 5 paragraph essay explaining three things that have helped to make them the person they are today.

Excerpt from Walt Whitman’s poem: “There was a child went forth.”

There was a child went forth every day,

And the first object he looked upon and received with

wonder or pity or love or dread, that object he became,

And that object became part of him for the day or a certain

part of the day . . . or for many years or stretching

cycles of years.

The early lilacs became part of this child,

And grass, and white and red morning-glories, and white and

red clover, and the song of the phoebe-bird,

And the March-born lambs, and the sow’s pink-faint litter,

and the mare’s foal, and the cow’s calf, and the noisy

brood of the barnyard or by the mire of the pond-side

. . . and the fish suspending themselves so curiously

below there . . . and the beautiful curious liquid . . . and

the water-plants with their graceful flat heads . . . all

became part of him.

Sources:

http://ethemes.missouri.edu

http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonrepro/lessonplans/profbooks/whoami.pdf